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NPIC/TDS/D-976-67
17 August 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center

SUBJECT : An Evaluation of APRO's Technical Research Note 179 Titled
"Relative Effectiveness of Different Viewing Devices for
Photo Interpretation"

1. The findings of this study are judged to be of limited usefulness to NPIC for the following reasons:

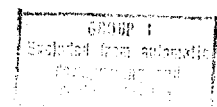
- a. The test imagery was not very similar to the imagery normally analyzed by NPIC's interpreters. (See Page 2 under Research Procedures)
- b. The tasks levied upon the test subjects were not very similar to the tasks normally performed by the bulk of NPIC's interpreters. (See Pages 2 and 4)
- c. The test subjects were limited in experience compared to NPIC's interpreters. They were Army PI School students in the 13th week of their training course. (See Page 2)
- d. According to the report, the subjects had no previous experience with the rear projection viewer. (See Page 2)
- e. The range of enlargement choice available to the subjects was only 4X, which seems like a rather limited range of variation in enlargement. (This was acknowledged by the author in conclusion #3 on Page 10).

2. The findings of the research effort having to do with a PI performance difference when using light tables for viewing as compared to using rear projection screens for viewing compared favorably to the attitudes and preferences of the majority of NPIC's experienced PIs. Most of our interpreters do not choose to use the [] rear projection viewers and feel that they can do a better job when they view imagery with a tube magnifier (or microscope) directly on a light table. In this respect, the

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intuitive feelings of our experienced interpreters correspond to the findings of the APRO researchers. The other major finding, namely, that performance was "significantly better" when the subjects were using the larger scale, higher quality imagery seems so obvious as to not be worth the research effort.

25X1 3. If a question is raised such as what effect should these findings by APRO have on NPIC's PI operations, the answer would have to be that they will have very little or no effect. The Human Factors investigation currently being carried out for NPIC by [] and others is much more likely to produce information of value to us. In contrast to the factors listed at the beginning of this report which limit the value of the APRO study to NPIC, our current Human Factors effort has the following factors in its favor:

- a. KH imagery is being used as test material.
- b. Experienced NPIC interpreters are, or will be, the test subjects.
- c. The tests will be carried out using operational exploitation equipment.
- d. The tasks levied upon the test subjects will be similar to the tasks regularly levied upon the working PIs.

[]
Colonel, USAF

Assistant for Technical Development, NPIC

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